

A MOST
CIRCUMSTANTIAL ACCOUNT

Of that unfortunate Young LADY

Miss BELL, otherwise SHARPE,

Who died at MARYBONE on SATURDAY OCTOBER 4.

CONTAINING

A SERIES of very extraordinary FACTS, which have never yet transpired; especially her remarkable Relation to Captain THOMAS HOLLAND, of the Manner she came by her Wounds; to whom (and to whom only) she related all the Particulars of that horrid Transaction.

By HEARTFREE,

Author of Two Letters on the same Subject in the
GAZETTEER.

" Lend thy serious Hearing
" To what I shall unfold
" . . a Tale . . . whose lightest Word
" Would harrow up thy Soul!
" Lift, lift, O lift!
" Wounds most foul, as in the best they are,
" But *these*, most foul, strange, and *unnatural*."
SHAKESPEAR.

L O N D O N:

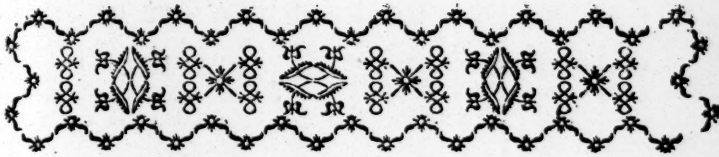
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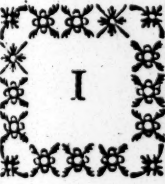
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A CIRCUMSTANTIAL

A C C O U N T &c. &c.

By HEARTFREE.

T is a happy and amiable Character which this Nation has justly acquired, that neither the laws, nor the humanity of its natives, will permit the lowest person to be ill used with impunity, however great the offender may be by birth, by power, or by opulence. Nobles and plebeians, the wealthy and the indigent, are equally eligible to, and protected by, the Legislature; and are equally sharers in the assistance of their fellow subjects whenever it is requisite. Equity and humanity are no respecters of persons; and both these virtues shine eminently conspicuous in this happy isle. If the death of a menial servant could occasion the holding
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the highest and most solemn court of judicature in this kingdom, and the noble delinquent be condemned to fall a victim to offended justice; the perpetrator of a deed of cruelty, though to an unhappy female, abandoned to prostitution, will not, it is hoped, if proved upon him, escape punishment.

On the 20th, of October last, I inserted a letter in the Gazetteer concerning Miss Bell.* As it gives some account of that unfortunate young lady to nearly the time of

* This has been since published under the title of the life and real adventures of Ann Sharpe, by the way of appendix to a pamphlet in answer to that written by a jurymen: but the author has not only miserably altered, mutilated, and mangled it, but has very villainously thrown an odium on the ashes of the dead, by introducing some wretched adventures she was never engaged in. He has too, traduced her memory, by saying she was ruined at fifteen years of age. She was but twenty two when she died, and it was not more than fifteen months from her first acquaintance with her seducer, to that of her death. As a proof of the little knowledge this catchpenny scribler has of her, he has even copied faults out of the gazetteer; for the printer, by mistake, printed Ellsham instead of Aylsham, (the place of her habitation in the country) and he, as knowing no better, fell into the error, and has thereby incontestibly shewn himself a plagiarist, and utterly ignorant of any thing concerning her.

her

her receiving her wounds ; and as many persons may never have seen it, it may not be improper to insert a short extract from it, as a necessary prelude to Captain Holland's relation of this mysterious affair. .

“ She was of a reputable and opulent
 “ family in the county of Norfolk ; her
 “ father is in tolerable good circumstances,
 “ and her uncle at this time is possessed of
 “ at least a thousand pounds a year ; and
 “ from whom, in her days of innocence,
 “ she had large expectations. Her place
 “ of abode was then at Aylsham, about
 “ ~~twelve~~ miles from Norwich. She un-
 “ happily contracted an intimacy with
 “ a *gentleman* of the army quartered in
 “ those parts, who, gaining her affec-
 “ tions, deceived, ruined, and debauched
 “ her.† She made an elopement from
 “ her friends, and was privately conceal-

† A Letter in Lloyd's evening has denied this ; asserting that she first made shameful overtures to the officer. But till that is incontestibly proved, I must beg to disbelieve the assertion.

“ ed by her spark at Norwich for a little
 “ time ; at which period her friends found
 “ out her retreat, recovered, and took her
 “ home. Here she breathed a life of
 “ melancholy : her gay, volatile disposi-
 “ tion, rendered a sequestration from the
 “ world, altogether insupportable ; and the
 “ loss of her character kept her in an
 “ almost continual confinement ; having
 “ entirely deprived her of that association
 “ with her own sex, which her birth and
 “ station might have otherwise com-
 “ manded.

“ Her friends were sensible of the irk-
 “ someness of her situation, and that it was
 “ impossible for her to recover her reputation,
 “ in a place where every child was acquaint-
 “ ed with her story ; the blot upon her fame
 “ was indelible in the country. They
 “ therefore removed her to London, and
 “ apprenticed her to a very reputable
 “ chamber-milliner in Leicester-square, to
 “ whom was given an apprentice-fee of
 “ seventy-two guineas. Here she might
 “ have lived happily and creditably, but
 “ unfortunately

“ unfortunately she had now imbibed a
 “ a strong inclination for intriguing. To
 “ satisfy this passion, she very imprudent-
 “ ly and precipitately (without the insti-
 “ gation, as reported, of any man
 “ whatever) eloped from her mistress, after
 “ but a short continuance with her. Where
 “ she immediately went I do not learn ;
 “ but a few days after, she fell in compa-
 “ ny, at the abode of some new-contracted
 “ acquaintance, near Whitechapel, with
 “ one Sharpe, a watchmaker. Here she
 “ was boasting (if relating a truth may be
 “ termed so) of the goodness of her
 “ family ; to which she added her for-
 “ tunate prospect of wealth at the death
 “ of some of them. The young fellow
 “ seemed to listen with a more than ordi-
 “ nary attentive ear ; which she observing,
 “ merrily asked him if he was single ? He
 “ replied in the affirmative. This soon
 “ brought on a proposal, I cannot say
 “ from which party, of a match between
 “ them. Her inducement to a marriage
 “ with the first that offered, as she after-
 “ wards

“wards frequently confess’d, was to re-
 “move that power which her friends, or
 “mistress, might otherwise claim over
 “her; and the being compelled to return to
 “either, was what of all things she most
 “dreaded. Interest, though it flattered
 “him but in a distant view, it is reasona-
 “ble to suppose, was the all-powerful
 “spell that charmed the man to wed her.
 “But be it as it may, it is certain they
 “either that day, or the following, be-
 “came man and wife. She was with
 “with him but one night: for on the
 “morrow of their marriage, business re-
 “quiring his presence at Rumford in
 “Essex, she directly decamped; and to
 “elude any search after her, assumed a
 “fictitious name. The first place I find
 “her at afterwards, is Madam Modena’s,
 “in King-street, St. Anne’s, where she
 “lodged some time. Here it was she
 “commenced, or renewed, her ac-
 “quaintance with the actor, who has been
 “so much mentioned in this affair, with-
 “out the least shadow of reason. The
 “first

“ first knowledge she had of him, was
 “ the seeing him perform at Norwich, to
 “ which theatre he once belonged. She
 “ wrote him a letter, directed to him at
 “ the play-house he is engaged in here at
 “ London ; in which she acquainted him
 “ of her abode, and entreated his company ;
 “ with this he complied, and several times
 “ repeated his visits :—— At length the
 “ acquaintance between them broke off.
 “ After this she lived in several places,
 “ and by several names, which will be need-
 “ less to repeat here.”

I shall now proceed to the account given
 me by Captain Thomas Holland, a gen-
 tleman who is deservedly esteemed a man of
 honour and veracity ; one who would not
 attempt to sacrifice, upon any consideration
 in life, the peace and reputation of the inno-
 cent, to the manes of female friendship ;
 and who cannot be supposed to have any pri-
 vate pique or prejudice against the party
 accused, having never seen or spoken to him
 as he informs me, even to this day.

Captain

Captain Holland's acquaintance with Miss Bell commenced when she lived with her father at Aylsham, beloved, esteemed, and visited, as a young lady of character and virtue. He was quartered in those parts, and more than once at the town where she lived ; He frequently danced with her at the assembly, and has declar'd to me, he never saw the least action in her that derogated from delicacy, modesty, and sobriety. He had some intimacy in her family, particularly with her brother, now an officer in Germany, and who he does not doubt, when the more important duty he owes his country is at an end there, will see his injured and unhappy sister righted to the utmost. Captain Holland never saw Miss Bell, from the time she left the County of Norfolk, when she lived in reputation with her friends, to that of his seeing her on her death-bed at Marybone, so that this gentleman's motives, for exerting himself on this melancholy occasion, *can have no other* springs, than those of friendship; compassion, humanity, and justice.

The

The captain being in the city on September 26, called upon Mr. Drake, a Merchant who formerly lived at Aylsham. In the course of conversation Mr. Drake asked him when he saw Miss Bell? He told him not for more than sixteen months; I am informed, returned Mr. Drake that she is extremely ill somewhere at Marybone. The captain was extremely concerned to hear of her unhappy situation, and declared his intentions of enquiring her out, and visiting her. The next morning he did so, and found her confined to her bed, in a fever; her condition, so far differing from that he had left her in at Aylsham, affected him greatly! he asked her if she knew him? She returned no answer for about the space of a minute, but looked at him in seeming anguish, and then wept exceedingly: she now took him by the hand, as he stood by her bedside, and repeated faintly, "yes, yes, I know you" then resuming more strength, said with great earnestness, "I wish I had seen you a month ago, for then, perhaps, this might not have
C " happened;

“ happened ; but now I am lost----*I am*
“ *murdered :*” This expreffion fhock’d
Captain Holland much, and made him
irnpatient for the melancholy ftory, yet as
he perceived her very faint and weak,
begged her not to fatigue herfelf with re-
counting it then, but postpone it till the
afternoon, when he would come again, and
hear it, if her ftrength permitted her to
relate it : he did fo, and took with him
another gentleman, one Mr. Moon. He
found her fomething better, and fat down
by her ; ſhe defired him to affift her to fit
up in the bed, which he did, but it was
with the utmoft pain to her ; ſhe talk’d
fome little time on feveral paft occurrences,
when they were together in the country.
At laft, ſays ſhe, “ I have wrote to my
father, and expect him in town, but I am
not anxious now about his coming, for I
am confident you will be my friend ; and
fee me righted.” He asked her if any
perſon had uſed her ill ? She replied “ yes,
“ yes,---but---but”--- (here ſhe paused and
looked at Mr. Moon, then turned to the
captain

captain and continued) "if you will call to-morrow morning, I will relate something to you, will surprize you." Perceiving her very faint, Captain Holland took his leave, promising to return in the morning. He was punctual, but before he went into her room, the nurse who attended her, desired to speak with him, and took him aside for that purpose. She then informed him that her mistress had got two frightful wounds, which appeared to her, to be cut with a sharp instrument, through some villainy. That they were so extremely bad she could not administer a glyster, which had been ordered her by the apothecary, Mr. Thomas Blifs of Tyburn-road. The captain replied, he apprehended this to be the circumstance Miss Bell wanted to relate to him. He then went into her room, sat down and enquired after her health. She requested him to lend her his assistance, that she might sit up in her bed. He told her the nurse's words; and asked her how she came by the wounds. Her answer was

“ It is true ; that villain Sutton gave them me.” Who, says he, is this Sutton? She replied “ a young merchant, who used to keep company with Sir William Fowler.” The Captain then intreated her, if she found her strength would permit it, to relate her story from the time of her first coming to town. She acquiesced.

I find very little variation of circumstances in her narration (as the Captain has since related it to me) from the account I have already given of her proceedings to the public. Those circumstances which she told him that have not yet transpired, it may be necessary to mention : in the course of her unhappy profession (she said) she contracted an injury ; when one Mr. B---r, a gentleman of fortune, with whom she had commenced an acquaintance, took compassion on her, provided her a lodging, and put her under cure. At this very time her father came to town, to Mr. Drake’s the merchant ; this gentleman assisted him in finding of her out ; in their enquiries they received information, that

she was kept by Mr. B---r: they made application to him, and he very readily promised to introduce her to them; a tavern was appointed, and Mr. B---r was punctual to his promise: her father took her with him that night to Mr. Drake's in the city; she consented to return with him home to her disconsolate mother who was most affectionately fond of her; and she lay there that night. In the morning (unfortunately for her, as it has since proved) Mr. B--r came to Mr. Drake's and desired her father to put her again under his protection, as she was not perfectly well of her illness; promising that he would take the utmost care of her, that he would place her at a friend's house in the country, and when well, deliver her up to him again. To this her father most unaccountably consented, and on that very day he took a hackney coach, from Mr. Drake's and went and surrendered her to Mr. B---r. She parted from her father, and Mr. B. hired her an apartment at the king of Bohemia's-head on Turnham-green.

“ Here (said she) he placed me as a
 “ young

“ young lady, to whom he was guardian ;
 “ he visited me pretty constantly in the
 “ day time, and the greatest harmony
 “ subsisted between us. But this lasted
 “ not long, Sir W. F. came to see me,
 “ and introduced Sutton, with whom I
 “ was then utterly unacquainted ; this
 “ created frequent words between Mr.
 “ B---r and I, under whose protection, how-
 “ ever, I, still continued : Sir W. and his com-
 “ panion, coming pretty often, increased
 “ Mr. B---r’s and my differences, which
 “ rendering my situation extremely uneasy,
 “ I determined to leave Turnham-green,
 “ unknown to them all ; I did so, came
 “ to town, and took lodging’s at Mrs. Sa-
 “ rah Parker’s, in Spring-garden.”
 Captain Holland then asked her, how she
 came to see Mr. Sutton again ? She told
 him that after about three weeks absence,
 he and Sir W. discovered her retreat, and
 came one morning to see her, they re-
 quested, or rather insisted, on her taking a
 walk, to which she consented. At night,
 they went to Haddock’s bagnio Charing-
 cross ; that here another young lady, Miss
 young

Young came to sup with them. They continued at the bagnio three nights successively, amidst the utmost rioting and intemperance, [it has appeared since that they dined each of the three days at the Cardigan-head tavern, Charing-cross, but this she omitted mentioning to the captain] they drank extremely hard; not less than three pints of ratafia a day, besides other liquors, to her own share. During this time, she said, Mr. Sutton used her exceedingly ill, striking her several times; she got a fall down stairs, and greatly hurt her side, but could not take upon her to say positively, whether she was thrown, or fell down: [this shews her relation to be given unprejudiced, that she was not inclined to the telling of lies, and that she was unwilling to attribute to another that blame which she was not absolutely certain they deserved.] Captain Holland very judiciously interrogated her, whether or no she might not have received her wounds from that fall? She replied, "No, no, I did not; they were given me by that villain

villain Sutton, with a penknife." At the same time, she told the captain to this purport, and as near as he could recollect, in these very words. " Before he gave me " the wounds, he told me he would cut " me so that I should not be able to *fit*, " and if that would not do, when he saw " me again, he would cut me so that I " should not be able to *live*: he then " instantly pulled out a penknife, and " stabbed me, as if he had been stabbing " of a hog." Here she endeavoured to describe to the captain the manner of his cutting of her, by pointing towards the wounds, and making motions, repeating at the same time, " So, so," or " Thus, thus." He asked what she had done to Mr. Sutton, that he should be guilty of such a cruel and atrocious act? " I cannot " tell, returned she, for I do not know " that I ever affronted him in my life; at least " never to deserve such treatment." After she had received the wounds [the captain could not recollect, for certain, how long she said it was after] she found herself very ill; went home sick, faint, and laid down;

Mrs.

Mrs. Parker and her maid first bathing her bruises, which she had got almost from head to foot, with hot vinegar ; all which she declared (except the hurt on her side, by the fall) she received from Sutton. Captain Holland asked, if she saw Mr. Sutton afterwards ? Her reply was “ No, “ but finding my illness increase, and that “ he did not come near me, I wrote him a “ letter, informing him of my sickness “ and distress, and requesting some money ; “ he sent me by the chairman who carried “ it, a very paltry and dirty answer, for “ one who assumes the character of a “ gentleman. The letter is in my portman- “ teau, and that is in the possession of “ Mr. Bliss, the apothecary, who has the “ care also of all my things.” [I have been well informed that Mr. B. has been so extremely ungenteel, as to expose and read to several persons Miss Bell’s correspondence ; the copies of her own letters and those also she received from other people : particularly one written to her by a certain captain in his majesty’s navy ; whom, he

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may

may rest assured, shall be acquainted with this proceeding, and the comments he has been pleased to make upon that gentleman's epistle.]

About this time, she said, Sir William Fowler, came to see her, and behaved with great humanity and generosity. He sent for Mr. Blifs, desired him to be particularly careful of her, suffer her to want for nothing, and gave him some money. “ Mr. Blifs (said she) removed
 “ me in a chair to these lodgings, provided
 “ me with a nurse, and has since attend-
 “ ed upon me.—This is my story ; my ill
 “ usage is a truth, and *that* Sutton is the
 “ *cause* of my *death*. I am very sensible
 “ that the wounds will *kill* me, and I hope
 “ you Captain Holland will see me have
 “ *justice* done, as I have no other friend
 “ here *but* you.” He now enquired of her whether any *other* person had ill used her, for that great liberties had been taken with Sir William Fowler's name in the affair ? She replied “ no—not any person.—Sir
 “ William has behaved to me, and more
 “ especially

“ especially of late, extremely like a gentleman.”

The captain promised her to use every means in his power to bring the perpetrator of her ill usage to justice. But considering it would be more essentially necessary at the present to have some care taken of her wounds, he told her he would go immediately to Mr. Blifs for that purpose ; she desired he would. He went, but Mr. Blifs was not at home. He told his man, that Miss Bell had two wounds, begged either he, or his master, would go instantly and examine them, and that he would call in the afternoon to know Mr. Blifs's sentiments concerning them. [It may be naturally wondered at here, that Miss Bell never told of her wounds till they were discovered by her nurse. That she had had them some time, when discovered, was obvious by the appearance they then made.---Those who knew her well, attribute her concealing them, only to their being given in the place where they were ;

for she preserved, to the last, a degree of delicacy, seldom, if ever before, found in one of her unhappy profession.] When the captain returned, Mr. Bliss was at home; he informed him he had already been with his patient. Captain Holland asked his opinion of the wounds? He replied he could hardly tell, that it was a very *odd affair*, such a one as he never had in hand before in his life: That the wounds seemed to him to be cut with some instrument, and that they were *very bad*, on account of her having had them so long without dressing. He desired Mr. Bliss to acquaint him, whether the lady had the venereal disorder? His answer was “*I cannot take upon me to say she has.*” The captain did not think it proper to inform Mr. Bliss, by what means she came by her wounds, therefore, after entreating him to be careful of her, departed. From thence he went to Marybone; Miss Bell told him Mr. Bliss had dressed her wounds, and said they would do very well. In a few minutes, he took his leave, as she seemed

seemed greatly in want of rest. The next morning the captain saw her again, and as she seemed in tolerable spirits, questioned her in relation to her story of the preceding day, and she repeated the major part of it almost word for word. as before. From this time he saw her twice a day, to the Thursday before her death. She never faltered in her account to Captain Holland, always persisted that Sutton gave her the wounds, and was ever perfectly in her senses when he saw her. The last words he had with her, worth relating, were these. “ I am going (says he) to “ write to your *father* ; have you any “ thing particular to say, to him ?” She replied “ no ;” but after a little pause, she said eagerly, as if recollecting herself, “ Pray give my duty to my dear *mother*, “ and let her know, I have not a great “ while to be in this world, but I hope I “ shall meet her in another, where *we* “ may be more happy than *we* have been “ in this.”---She spoke this so sensibly pathetic, and with such an affecting eloquence

quence in her looks, that the captain could not refrain joining his tears to hers.--- A certain indication of a compassionate and brave mind !

On the Friday morning the maid and nurse informed Captain Holland, that a surgeon had been there the day before, that the wounds were black, and, they believed, mortified, and that their mistress was dying. Finding her so extremely bad, he did not go into her chamber to disturb her. On the morrow Saturday October 4, he went in the forenoon, and found she had been dead about an hour.

It will now be proper to take notice of the method taken to bury her. I am told there are no searchers in that, as in other parishes, whose business it is to examine of what disease every person dies. Mr. Bliss the apothecary therefore thought it necessary, and applied to Mr. Umfreville, one of the coroners for the county of Middlesex, for his warrant to bury her, and obtained it. As a proof of this, I

shall insert an authentic copy of a letter, written by Mr. Umfreville to his brother coroner concerning it.

“ S I R,

“ I Was last Sunday attended by Mr. Blifs, and the undertaker, *and by what was related*, I was opinion the matter was not coroner's business.--The girl's *case* was *venereal*, and I *therefore* gave leave to bury in ease of the county charge,---The affair has been before Mr. Fielding.

October 8, 1760.

E. U.”

I shall postpone the observations I have to make on Mr. Blifs's *extraordinary* application to the coroner, and his *extraordinary* behaviour in the whole affair, till I have done with Captain Holland, &c.

The first step the captain took after the death of this unfortunate young creature, was the going to Justice Fielding, in order to relate the story of her woes, that
 . he

he who was the cruel cause of them might be brought to condign punishment. There he gave the account, or the greatest part of it, which I have already told : he was desired to get the Maid thither in a Coach, he did so, and her examination was also taken. — On the Thursday after her death (her body having been ordered to be taken up) a beadle brought him a summons from the coroner, requiring him to appear as the next day, at the Kings-head in Marybone, to give his Evidence relating to the death of Ann Sharpe. He attended, but no Coroner came, having, as he said in a letter to the jury, mistaken the day, and therefore begged their presence on the morrow. At night the Captain received a *written letter* from Mr. Umfreville, to inform him of the mistake, and to desire his attendance the next day : He did so, — After the surgeons had examined the body in the Bone-house, the jury retired to the Kings-head to examine the witnesses ; several were so : the physician, surgeons, apothecary, maid, nurse, &c. &c. During this Captain Hol-
land

land waited without, expecting to be called in. Finding no manner of notice was taken of him, and being impatient to give his testimony, he sent in word by the man who guarded the door, that he was desirous of being examined. The answer was, "He is not wanted, for the *jury* are *satisfied*." A person who was there too, one Mr. Harry, sent in for Mr. Watkins of Drury-Lane theatre, a juryman, and begged of him that Capt. Holland might give his Evidence, *but it was to no purpose*. The captain then went away to another house where he had some company. They remarked that he looked disturbed. "I am
 " so, says he, I have been summoned by
 " the coroner as a witness, and they re-
 " fuse to hear me." After being a very little while with his friends, he started up, exclaiming. "If the *jury* are satisfied, I am not, and am determined to go back again." When he came there, he sent in the same person, as before, who stood at the door, to tell the coroner and the jury that he was there, and was dissatisfied at not being examined.--The answer again

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was

was, " he is not wanted, for the *jury* are *satisfied*." The captain was therefore *obliged* to return to his friends, and home, *unquestioned*.

Upon this captain Holland wrote to Mr. Sutton at the Devizes, recapitulating what Miss Bell had said of the ill usage she had received from him. To which Mr. Sutton returned the captain the following answer.

S I R, *Devizes, October 16, 1760.*

BY last post I was *favoured* with a letter from Capt. Holland, with whom I have not the pleasure to be acquainted; and I must confess I am greatly *surprised* at the charge laid against me by Miss Bell, to whom I never offer'd the least *injury* or *affront* in my life. The cause of her death I am as ignorant of as the child unborn, and was it the last word I had to say, I would still *persist* in my *innocency*. Had I been conscious to myself of being the author of so *horrid* a *crime*, I should not have enjoyed one moment's peace of mind; and was it not for an *unhappy*

happy difference that subsists among a *part* of our family, I would not have delayed one moment to *return* to London, *in order* to clear myself from so *infamous* and *cruel* an aspersi^on, and which, to an innocent person, is of the blackest nature. The letter Miss Bell writ to me I have now by me ; she does not make the least mention of my having cut her with a knife, which she certainly would have done, had I been the author. And I can make it plainly appear, that she has often said, and sworn to things *when in liquor*, which she has absolutely denied the morning following. What credit then can be given to what such people say ? Was I *now* in London, I could bring people of the first fashion to *answer* for me. And I *defy* any person to *prove* that I ever offered Miss Bell the least insult in my life. How sensibly then a thing of this nature must affect me, I leave you, Sir, to guess. When I return again to London, which I *hope* will be *now* soon, I will do myself the pleasure to call on you, when I can *explain myself more clear-*

ly by word of mouth, than I can by letter,
I am with due regard,

Sir,

Your most humble servant,

Willy Sutton.

When you do me the favour to write again, I *beg* you will *direct* your letter to be *left* at the post office here.

Observations. Mr. Sutton is extremely singular in his notions, to think a letter, charging him with such a crime, a *favour*. As to his being *surprized* at the charge, there can be no doubt made of it: any person would *naturally* be so, under the *same* circumstances; but as to his having never offered her the least injury or affront, he is surely *mistaken*, as has been, and will be, incontestibly, proved, notwithstanding his defiance to the contrary. In regard to his *persisting* in his *innocency*; it is the *safest* way; but whether he is *really* innocent of her wounds, the perusers of this pamphlet will be able to judge. It was a little *unfortunate* for Mr. Sutton that an *unhappy* difference

ference should so *critically* subsist among a part of his family, and thereby prevent his return to London *in order* to clear himself from so *infamous* and *cruel* an aspersions! So *horrid* a crime! —But, I believe, few persons, besides Mr. Sutton, would esteem it more important, to adjust a difference in a part of a family, than to clear their reputation from such a charge of cruelty, and barbarity! —Love we know will lead men to the greatest extremes; a wife beloved, discovered to be perfidious, *might* overwhelm a husband so as to be regardless of all other considerations! but this is not Mr. Sutton's case; he is single.—That Miss Bell did not mention his cutting her in her letter, is true; for she read and shewed it to others, before she sent it. Why she did not mention it, can be accounted for only in the same manner, as for her never telling of her wounds till they were discovered; that is, her delicacy. Perhaps her goodness of heart too! chusing rather to *intreat* assistance, than *extort* it.---As to Mr. Sutton's making it appear that she has
said

said things *when in liquor*, which she has denied the following morning, that may be ; but what then ? If Mr. Sutton means, that when she was *sober* she recanted from her assertions made when in liquor, it argues the amiableness of her disposition, that would not suffer her to continue in an untruth. But if he would be understood, that what she said in liquor she denied (when sober) ever having said at all, I do not wonder at it. To say what they ought not, and to forget what they said, is a failing most, if not all, who drink to intoxication, are subject to ; and yet free from liquor, they may be such who would scorn a lie.---He says, if he was in London, he could bring persons of the first fashion to *answer* for him. How *answer* for him ? What ! that he did not cut her ? Surely none can do that ; and where is the friend who will *answer* for him in any other way ? It is now more than two months since Mr. Sutton wrote this letter, and he has not yet thought it *proper* to come to London to *explain* himself *more*
clearly

clearly to the captain by word of mouth.—There is something a little extraordinary too in the postscript. Why should Mr. Sutton beg the next letter to be directed to be left at the post-house, rather than his own home, where the captain directed the first? was he afraid any person should see it? Surely the letters were upon a subject that every innocent person would be glad to communicate to their friends, in order to procure their advice how to act under such an infamous aspersion!

" The brave do never shun the light,
 " Just are their thoughts and open are
 their tempers,
 " Still are they found in the fair face of
 day,
 " And heaven and men are judges of their
 actions.
 Rowe.

About the same time that Captain Holland wrote to Mr. Sutton, he sent a letter to Miss Bell's father, with an account of the unhappy affair of his daughter, and what

what she had related to him ; in answer to which he received the following.

“ S I R, *Aylsham, October 16, 1760.*
 “ **Y**OURS came to hand but this day,
 “ and I am obliged to you for the care
 “ towards my poor unfortunate daughter.
 “ As to Sutton, I am *determined* to bring
 “ him to the *Bar* for his barbarity and
 “ cruelty, if it costs me *five thousand*
 “ *pounds*. I have enclos’d a letter for Sut-
 “ ton, not knowing how to direct to him,
 “ and shall take it as a *great favour* would
 “ you *seal* it up and *deliver* it to him
 “ *yourself*. — Your answer *what Sutton*
 “ *says* by next post, will oblige

S I R,

Your most obedient
 humble servant,

William Bell.”

N. B. I shall be obliged to you to let me know, whether or no you be the same Captain Holland that used to come to our house. Also please to let me know how

how to direct to this Sutton. The surgeons that examined the body, I will take care they shall be made easy, and every person that assisted her during her illness.—Excuse errors.

The letter enclosed for Mr. Sutton was as follows.

“ Mr. Sutton,

“ S I R,

“ **B**Y many informations that I have
 “ had sent me from Justice Fielding
 “ and many others, you are the *villain*
 “ that gave my daughter two stabs with a
 “ penknife in a place called the Os Sacrum,
 “ of which wounds she died. Now if
 “ you do not *immediately* make an *atone-*
 “ *ment* or *retaliation* for this your cruelty,
 “ I will make you appear at the bar, if it
 “ cost me five thousand pounds, or *more*.
 “ —This is all proved against you, and
 “ that you was the cause of her death.—
 “ It was spoke of at Lord O——’s by a
 “ nobleman, how that you and Sir W. F.
 “ had used my daughter extremely ill, and
 F “ that

“ that you ought to be brought to punish-
 “ ment.—You likewise swore, that if ever
 “ you saw her again, you would so stab her
 “ that she should not live. *You see my*
 “ *determination.* Your’s

Aylsham, October 16, 1760. William Bell.

Captain Holland instead of transmitting Mr. Bell’s letter to Sutton, very judiciously suppressed it, and wrote Mr. B. an answer; signifying that he did not think it proper to send such a letter, requiring from a supposed murderer *atonement* and *retaliations* to a father for the death of a daughter; and telling of him that as he had threatened, otherwise, to bring him to the bar, that *that* was the atonement expected by the public. To this the captain received no answer: Upon which he wrote to the reverend Mr. W. minister of the parish of Aylsham, the purport of which was, the giving him an account of the affair; of Mr. Bell’s letter to him and Sutton, and the desiring of him to acquaint Mr. B. that as he had heard that his [captain Holland’s] name had been called in question,

in

in the country, in the affair, if he [Mr. Bell] did not take some proper steps to clear up the mystery, and right his injured daughter he might depend upon having his letters made public.

On the 23d or 24th of October captain Holland wrote a second letter to Mr. Sutton to this purpose, that he was not satisfied in regard to his innocency in the affair of Miss Bell, and that he thought, if he *was* innocent, that the *only* means to vindicate his character would be to return to town, and *endeavour to clear himself*. That he hoped he did not take him for an enemy, for that if he would come to London, he would give him every assistance in his power, *as far as justice would allow him; &c. &c.* This, Mr. Sutton answered as follows.

“ S I R, *Devizes, October 25, 1760.*

“ I Am this day *favoured* with a second
 “ Letter from you, by which I find you
 “ expresse great surprise that I should (as you
 “ say) still persist in my innocence relating

“ to the affair of Miss Bell. This expres-
 “ sion (I must confess) is to me very odd,
 “ for was I in the least conscious to my-
 “ self of having committed the *heinous*
 “ crimelaid so *maliciously* to my charge, you
 “ could not think me so void of sense to
 “ continue in this place in the *unconcerned*
 “ open manner I do *at present*. Every man
 “ has a monitor within him that will in-
 “ form him when he has done amiss, espe-
 “ cially in a case of this nature. This certainly
 “ must have been my case, had I been the
 “ author of her death. I am much obliged
 “ to you, Sir, for your profession of *friend-*
 “ *ship* in the Letter you writ me, but (thank
 “ God) my innocence is sufficient to protect
 “ me against those who have so villainous-
 “ ly *sworn* against me. And since matters
 “ are come to such a pass, I am *determined*
 “ to *see* the *end* of it, let what will be the
 “ consequence. I do assure you, Sir, I am
 “ by no means *deterr’d* at the thoughts of a
 “ trial, *that* being the *only* means by
 “ which I can justify myself. Besides, let
 “ my *innocence* appear ever so clear, it must
 “ notwithstanding greatly prejudice me in
 “ the

“ the *opinion* of my friends, at having
 “ a thing of this nature laid to my charge.
 “ The world will *possibly* be *surprised* at
 “ my not coming to town, and *perhaps* may
 “ imagine me *guilty*, and that I am *now*
 “ secreting myself from justice. I do
 “ assure you this affair gives me very lit-
 “ tle concern; let Mr. Bell’s determinati-
 “ on be what it will, I have no doubt but
 “ my innocence will secure me, and that
 “ my friends will *support* me in bringing
 “ to justice the *authors* of so *horrid* an ac-
 “ cusation. I am, with due regard,

“ S I R,

“ Your very humble servant,

WILLY SUTTON.”

Observations. Mr. Sutton, with the same singularity of notion as in his former, stiles captain Holland’s Letter a *favour*; though this same *favour* was no other than an assurance that the captain disbelieved his assertions of innocency, and consequently supposed him the perpetrator of a most unnatural deed upon a defenceless female. -- Mr. Sutton says, it is a heinous crime laid *maliciously*

maliciously to his charge. That Miss Bel had two wounds, and that she charged Mr Sutton with having given her *them*, is, I apprehend; believed to be most certain; and few, I imagine, who are told that she daily, constantly, and to the last moment (when she was going to appear before an Almighty and all knowing judge) persisted in the same story, will think she charged him *maliciously* or *wrongfully*; and much fewer will think that the giving her two *such* wounds, in *such* a part, was *not* a *heinous* crime. It therefore *must* follow, that it was a *heinous* crime *not* laid MALICIOUSLY to Mr. Sutton's charge. —I will not, cannot, take upon me to say, that her wounds were the cause of her death, yet, notwithstanding, however *unconcerned* Mr. Sutton says he was, at *that present*, when he wrote the letter, I hope the *Monitor* he has *within him* tells him, there is reason enough for his not being so *unconcerned* at *this present*. Mr. Sutton, after thanking the captain for his profession of friendship, [and which, by the by, can
scarce

scarce be called friendship, for declaring himself an adherent to justice and not his enemy] praises God, that his *innocence* is sufficient to *protect* him. Does Mr. Sutton mean his *innocence* in regard to her *death*? If so, *perhaps* it may be *sufficient*. But if he means his *innocence* in respect to her *wounds*, I fancy he will find *little* protection from *that*. He intimates that some people have villainously *forsworn* themselves. All who were *permitted* to be *sworn* at the coroner's inquest, were a physician, three surgeons, an *apothecary*, Mr. Moody, Mr. Gyffard, Mr. Davis, the nurse, and the maid. Which, and how many, of these, does Mr. Sutton think *swore villainously* against him? Till he explains himself, he certainly lays the crime of perjury at the door of *every one* of them; and makes it incumbent on *every one* to clear themselves from the aspersions. As things are come to such a pass, he is *determined*, he says, to see the *end* of it, *let what will be the consequence*. All good people wish the same! And that Mr. Sutton was either convicted,
if

if guilty, or acquitted if innocent, by a higher form of law than a coroner's inquest ; where *no* person's testimony would be *refused* to be heard.—Mr. Sutton says, a trial is the *only* means by which he can justify himself. Why then, instead of staying in the country, has he not appeared publicly in London. and *seemed* to *seek* that *only* justification ? ---He supposes the world will *possibly* be *surprized* at his not coming to town. I can assure him the world are not *at all* surprized at it ; the reason is too evident.—He then says, perhaps they [the world] may *imagine* me *guilty*, and that I am now *secreting* myself from justice. I am sorry to inform him that most people *do imagine so*. —He concludes in not doubting but his friends will support him in bringing to justice the authors of so *horrid* an *accusation*. The *accusation* is a *horrid* one indeed ! and if a *false* one, it is high time he proceeded against the accusers, and *proved* their villainy upon them ; *otherwise* the world *must* be apt to think the accusation not so false as he seems to say it is.

In

In consequence of the letter which captain Holland wrote to the minister of Aylsham, as mentioned before, he received the following epistle from Mr. Bell.

S I R,

“ THE uneasiness my unhappy daughter has occasioned me, is inexpressible, and for you to add to my misfortune by your unkind letter to Mr. W—h is not kind or generous. The letter I sent you for Sutton, I will *allow*, was *not proper*; and as I was *diffident* in my own mind about it, I sent it you unsealed, that you might peruse it, and if you did not approve it, I judged you would not deliver it, which I think was very right and am obliged to you, you did not. I have received the depositions from justice Fielding, and they are now under consideration by a person eminent in the law. When I have received his answer I shall acquaint you the result of his opinion, by which I shall govern myself with the advice of my friends: Therefore you must not impute to me any neglect of regard to my daughter,

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for

for I must be governed by those who are superior to me in judgment in this unhappy affair. In the interim, I am, Sir,

Your most obedient

humble servant,

Aylsham, 19th Nov. 1760.

W. BELL.

Observations. I shall be as tender, and brief as *possible*, in remarking upon Mr. Bell's letters; but *something* of that sort is absolutely necessary, as he charges the captain with being *unkind* and *ungenerous*; when throughout the whole of this unfortunate young lady's affair, he has, most certainly, shewn himself fraught with the tenderest sentiments of *kindness* and *generosity*, and every virtue that constitutes a lover of friendship, justice, and humanity. Mr. Bell is most undoubtedly in the right, in *allowing* his letter to Mr. Sutton to be *improper*. Who is it does not *shudder* at the very thoughts of a father threatening the murderer of a daughter (for he tells him he was the cause of her death by stabbing her)

her) with making him appear at the bar, if he did not make *atonement* or *retaliation*?—How can Mr. Bell say he was *diffident* in his own mind about the letter's being delivered to Sutton, and therefore sent it unsealed for the captain's approval or rejection of it, when in his first letter he *peremptorily* desires him to *seal it up*, and (no doubt for fear it should miscarry) requests him to *deliver it himself* to Sutton?—Mr. Bell says the depositions are under consideration by a person *eminent* in the law; and that *when* he had received his answer, he would acquaint the captain with the result of his opinion. The matter is indeed knotty and mysterious, but I apprehend any gentlemen *eminent* in the law might have given his mature opinion before now: However, Captain Holland has not *yet* received Mr. Bell's promised information: He consequently cannot know whether he is to *impute* it to *any neglect* of regard to his daughter, or to *any other cause*.

I have now done with captain Holland's account. An account which carries conviction in every line! The praise of every friend to truth and justice is due to this gentleman; and I make no doubt but he will receive it from them all. But that there may not remain the least shadow of a reason for his relation to be disbelieved, I shall now support it by such incontestible corroborating evidences, as will set the truth of it beyond the possibility of a doubt.

As to the letters received from Mr. Bell and Mr. Sutton, the originals (now in my possession) will testify for them. In regard to the girl's story, I shall first concisely lay before the reader what she said to Miss Ann Knight, the daughter of the person at whose house she was at Marybone, and who, though summoned to give her evidence before the coroner, *was never called in for that purpose.*

Miss Knight avers, that Miss Bell told her, that when Sutton and she fell out, he
declared

declared himself to this purport, "*that he had a good mind to cut her backside so as she could not sit.*" That Sir William Fowler being *then* in company, made answer, "*Sure you would not offer to do such a thing!*" that Sutton said, "*Yes, and if, madam, you speak another word, I will cut your face in the same manner.*" That he afterwards pulled out a knife and cut her; (marking at the same time with her fingers how) then pulled the knife out of the first wound, and stuck it into another. That he bent her fingers back as if he would have broke them, and that they turned immediately black. That Sutton said to this effect, "*He had put it out of the doctor's power to cure her, but he could cure her with such another job; and that he would do the next time he saw her.*" Miss Bell also told Miss Knight, that she believed if it had not been for Sir William Fowler, Sutton would have *killed* her.

Observations. Although the above are not the *very* words which Miss Bell related

lated to the captain, of the manner of Sutton's wounding her, yet, by comparing, they will be found to bear *just* the *same* sense.—She seems to have been rather more explicit in this part of her story to Miss Knight than to the captain, but that is easily accounted for. She could say to a woman *that*, which her delicacy would not permit her to repeat to a man; and the omission of the word *backside* to the captain, is a proof of it.—It is true that she said nothing to captain Holland of Sutton's telling her he would put it out of the doctor's power to cure her; but then she said to him, that he (Sutton) told her he would cut her so that she should not be able to live; which, in fact, is *one* and the *same* thing.—She never mentioned to the captain Sir William Fowler's remonstrance to Sutton upon his threatening her, nor even that he was in the room at that time;—that might be forgetfulness. Few of us (even when our thoughts are not disturbed by pain or sickness as hers were) remember *every* circumstance of any affair we are relating!

lating!—There is one thing I must not pass remarking,—That Sir William Fowler was present *once* when Sutton threatened Miss Bell, seems evident by the foregoing testimony; but whether it was at *that* threatening when he *afterwards* stabbed her, is not *so* evident: he might indeed be *present* at the *very* threatening, and yet be *out of the room* when the wounds were given.—Neither is it clear by her account to Miss Knight, whether or no Sir William was in company *when* he stabbed her.—If it had not been for Sir William, she believed, she said, that she should have been killed by Sutton, but that by no means makes it plain that he (Sir W.) was by *when* she was wounded. He might have come to her relief *immediately after*; or perhaps he might have prevented her being ill used some other time, and she be thereby persuaded within herself, that he had saved her life. But be it as it may, it is most certain Sir William had more honour and humanity in him than to *assist* in, or *abet* such an atrocious piece of cruelty: and it is but an act of justice in me, as he

is incapable of answering for himself, being in the service of his country, a volunteer, in Germany, to take this, and every opportunity of vindicating his character from the aspersions thrown upon it in this affair.—It may indeed be said, that if he *was* present, he *might* have prevented it. I say, no: these things are generally done too instantaneously to admit of prevention. It is true Sutton threatened her first, and some may say Sir William should have been therefore alarmed, and have guarded against it; but how often, how *very* often, do we hear drunken, or passionate people, *threaten* what we have not the least belief they intend to *execute*? And who among us is there would believe, that *any* man, who calls himself a gentleman, *could* commit *such* a cruelty?

The next corroborating evidence I shall bring is Miss Bell's maid, Elizabeth Honeybald. She *was* indeed examined before the coroner, but not in many points which

which she had knowledge of, and which might have illustrated the affair.

This young woman lived at the King of Bohemia's Head at Turnham Green, and entered into Miss Bell's service there. She says Miss Bell lay with the person's daughter who kept the house, and passed there for some time as a virtuous young lady, that she behaved as such, nor was in the least suspected for the contrary, 'till Sir W. and S. used to come there. That when her mistress left Turnham Green, she lived with her at Mrs. Parker's. She says she never saw her drunk in her life, her common drink being wine and water. That when Sir William and Sutton called upon her mistress, *she went out with them in perfect health.* That the same morning her mistress came home from the Bagnio, she first sent for a clean shift, cap, handkerchief, and pair of stockings. That before she carried them to her mistress, she went for something to the Rummer, which is next door to the Bagnio, and the gentle-

H

woman

woman of the house said to her, "there
 " has been a great noise, and sad piece of
 " work to night with Sir W. and Sutton!
 " *it is well if there has been no murder.*"
 That when she took the things to her mistress, which was about ten o'clock, *the waiter refused to let her see her.* That when her mistress came home, she said, "*I have received my death's wounds from that villain Sutton.*" These words the maid thinks were said too, in presence of Mrs. Parker. That on her repeatedly asking what she meant by them, "*she said she had been used ill;*" but could get nothing else out of her. That her mistress was *bruised all over, had lumps in her head, and her fingers so black* that she was obliged to wear gloves for some time after, to prevent their being seen. That she came home sick, faint, and laid down. That there was *blood* on her shift, and two of her petticoats *behind.* That her mistress read the letter to her, which she wrote to Mr. Sutton for money, in her sickness and distress: that she did not mention in it his giving her
 her

her the wounds ; but that she told her the money she sent for, Sutton owed her, and so she thinks it was written in the letter. That her mistress read the answer, which she well remembers was in these words :*

“ *Miss Bell, if you are well, I am well, pay the post, and all is well.*”

That she was present when her mistress related to Miss Knight, Sutton’s ill usage ; and that it was just in the same manner (having had it read to her) as Miss Knight hath told it.—

Note, Mr. Sutton in one of his letters denies any person to prove he ever offered any affront to Miss Bell. In answer to which I must tell him, that her maid has sworn before the coroner, that she knew nothing of his giving her the wounds, [i. e. did not *see* him give her them] but that he used her ill from the *first* to the *last*. And the maid tells me she has seen him *strike* her mistress *often*. If this is not offering her any affront, I wonder what is ?

* This is the letter Miss Bell told captain Holland was in the possession of Mr. Blifs, and which she called a paltry answer.—It was, no doubt, in her situation, an inhuman one !

I shall now bring the testimony of Miss Young, whose character, in point of veracity, is said to be unquestionable, and who is ready to support her assertions by any and every method prescribed by law.

Her account is, that she has frequently seen Mr. Sutton act in such a manner to Miss Bell, that *she* should have thought it *ill usage* from *any* person. That she was at the Bagnio with the deceased, Sir W. and Sutton. That one time in particular, on Sutton's behaving ill to Miss Bell, Sir William expostulated with him thus, " Sutton, how can you behave so ill to her? *you know how good she is when she is sober; you act more like a beast than a man.*" That on the deceased's saying " she heard her father was coming to town to fetch her home, but that she would rather die than go home after what had happened;" meaning her present situation of life: Sir William made answer, " my dear *do* go home, if there is

" any

“ any difference subsisting between your
 “ father and you, I will endeavour to set-
 “ tle it, or do any thing for you in my
 “ power. You are ill now, but if you
 “ get well before I go into Germany, I
 “ will carry you home myself.” Miss Bell
 replied, “no, no, I am *afraid* to go home ;
 “ I could *never* live *happy*.” That Mr.
 Blifs the apothecary came to them at the
 Bagnio. That he was there at least two
 hours. That he sat at table with them all
 supper time. That she is certain he drank,
 but cannot take upon her to say he eat with
 them, unless cracking and *eating* a great
 many nuts may be deemed so. That Sir
 W. Miss Bell, Sutton, and herself, were
 going out of town the next morning, but
 Mr. Blifs coming to them *unexpected*, pre-
 vented them, That they then went to the
 Cardigan’s Head Tavern to dinner, whither
 Mr. Blifs accompanied them, and dined
 with them. That when Miss Bell was ill
 at home at Mrs. *Parker’s*, she went to see
 her, and that she then said, “ I am very
 “ ill, I have *received* some *inward* hurt,
 “ and

“ and *that* Sutton has been the *ruin* of me.”
 She also said she should *die*, and that “ if
 “ she was not moved from where she was
 “ (to the country I suppose) she should not
 “ live half an hour.” That she shewed
 her [Miss Young] Sutton’s answer to the
 letter she had wrote him, informing him
 of her sickness and distress; and that the
 words of it were, “ Miss Bell, if you are
 well, I am well, pay the post, and all
 is well.” That she was greatly affected
 with Miss Bell’s unhappy situation, begg’d
 her to accept some money, and then took
 her leave. That she went directly to Sir
 William Fowler, and told him Miss Bell
 was dying; and begged for God’s sake he
 would go to her, for that she had neither
 money or friends; and that she had wrote
 to Sutton for some, but he had refused her.
 That Sir William seemed greatly surprized
 and moved at his barbarity, exclaiming,
 “ *Is it possible!*” That he went with her
 to Miss Bell, and greatly compassionated
 her distressful situation, giving three gui-
 neas to Mrs. Parker, and desiring her to
 let

let her have any thing she *wanted*, or could *wish* for. [Sir W. also sent for Mr. Bliss to attend her, and upon Mr. Bliss's advising her to be removed, gave him five guineas for that purpose, &c.]

Observations. Miss Young not only strengthens captain Holland's relation in many points, but invalidates Sutton's defiance in regard to his never having offered any insult to Miss Bell. She also proves Mr. Bliss did not *recollect* himself enough when he swore before the jury. And she incontestibly proves Sir William to have no hand in the affair, but on the contrary that he behaved to her in a very amiable and praiseworthy manner.---His offering to accommodate matters with her father; his advice for her to leave her course of life, and proposition to see her safe home himself, his expostulation with Mr. Sutton; his exclamation at his refusing her money in her distress, and his giving money himself to have every proper care taken of her, are great and striking proofs of a good, gene-

generous, and humane mind, though in some measure, perhaps, hitherto, buried to the world, by the wild fallies of inconsiderate youth.

I shall now take a general review of some things which have occurred in this affair, and of the depositions made before the jury, and then conclude.

I shall first begin with Mr. Blifs. When captain Holland asked him, after he had examined her wounds, whether she had the venereal disorder ? his answer was, that he could not *take upon him* to say she *bad*. On the day after she died, as appears by the coroner's letter. Mr. Blifs applied to the coroner for leave to bury her, as a person who had *died* of the *venereal disease*. Was it not most *extraordinary*, that Mr. Blifs should now *take upon him* to say, what he could not *take upon him* to say a few days before, although he had *then* inspected her ? ---But hear what Mr. Blifs swore before the coroner, as it appears in the pamphlet written by one of the jury-men,

men. On his being asked if the wounds could, in any wise, occasion her death ; he answered “ That if she had not had “ any wounds at all, *probably*, she would “ have died ; *for her death was owing to an “ inflammatory putrid fever.*” What do you say to this Mr. Bliss ? Did she die of the *venereal disorder*, and an *inflammatory putrid fever* too ? I would ask Mr. Bliss another question. Pray if a person had died of the venereal disorder, could it not be perceived by inspecting the body afterwards ? I fancy you *will*, because you *must*, answer, yes. Why then it is plain she did *not* die of it, for two of the surgeons, Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Farmer, on being asked the question, after their having inspected the body, swear positively they saw *no* appearance or symptoms of it.---I therefore call upon you to inform the public, what could lead you to *deceive* the coroner ; I hope not the old proverb, that it is not *proper* to tell the *truth* at *all* times.— I have not done yet, sir. By the juryman’s pamphlet it appears you *swore* that at Had-

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dock’s

dock's Bagnio "they asked you to drink, but you *neither eat nor drank* with them, but took your leave: that Sutton and the deceased were put into one bed that night, and dined together the next day at the Cardigan's-head; and that you did *not* see her *again* till the 11th of September."

—Pray *recollect* yourself Sir. Miss Young says you sat with them two hours, and at the table all the while they where at supper, and tho' she cannot take upon her to say you *eat* (unless it was *nuts*, and in my notion of things *that is eating*) yet she is confident you *drank*. And indeed it is not reasonable to suppose a man could set in a Bagnio *two hours* with two young fellows, warm with liquor, without being, as it were, *forced*, by their insisting on it, *to drink*. Remember too sir that you have *sworn* Miss Young was sober, so that there is no apparent cause for her memory's failing her.---Did you not call of them the next morning at the bagnio, *without being sent for*, and prevent their going out of town? Did you not dine with

with them afterwards at the Cardigan? How then, Sir, can you *swear* that you took your leave *at* the bagnio; that Sutton and the deceased were put to bed *at* the bagnio, and dined *together* [that is *they* two, Sutton and the deceased, it cannot *well* be taken in *any other* sense] the next day at the Cardigan's Head, and that you *did not see her till the 11th of September*? Indeed your story is told *so*, that it *may* be understood, you *meant* you was with them; but in an *oath*, Sir, a man cannot be too explicit; *why* you was so ambiguous you *must certainly know best*. You swear you was *sent* for, to the bagnio, by Sir William, your patient. The next morning, you know, you went *voluntarily*; perhaps, *therefore*, you did not chuse to have it known that you went to *such* places, *without being sent* for.---You swear if she had not had any wounds at all, *probably*, she would have died. *Probably!* what then, sir, you are not positive she would have died otherwise?---No more are many other people.

Mr. John Wyatt, the surgeon, being asked at the coroner's inquest, if he could tell the occasion of her death? answered, *he could form no observation of her death.* And on being asked, if those wounds might not have occasioned a fever? he said, " he *believed* not."---Mr. Wyatt's *believing* they would not, is no *proof* they would not.

Mr. John Farmer, surgeon, being asked if the wounds might not be the occasion of a fever? He said they could *scarcely* occasion a fever, but they *might*.---If there is only a bare possibility that her wounds *might* occasion a fever, surely the perpetrator of them ought to be proceeded against farther.

Mr. Samuel Chapman, the surgeon, swears, that when he first attended the deceased, on Thursday *October 2d*, he was shewed two wounds, and found a *gangrening*. On Friday, found they were *mortified*, and on Saturday word was sent him she was *dead*. Being asked if he had
 now

now inspected the body, and what he thought of the wounds? He said it was his *opinion*, that the wounds were not mortal.---I would ask Mr. Chapman, or any gentleman of the faculty, this plain question; When a part has become *gangrened*, does not the small absorbent vessels imbibe and carry into the blood the noxious matter (which is a subtle poison) that occasioned the *gangrene*? The blood and juices being *therefore* so contaminated, may produce a putrid fever; which, before, might have been only a symptomatic inflammatory, occasioned by the pain of her wounds, and excessive drinking.

Dr. Talbot Smith swears, " it is his "*opinion*, that the wounds could be no way relative to her death."

I observe the gentlemen in general, very justly, are diffident in swearing *positively* that the wounds did not cause her death, or the fever; but give it only as a matter of *opinion*; in which, I doubt not, they will

will admit, they *may* be mistaken. Mr. Bliss says, *probably* she would have died if she had not been wounded. Mr. Wyatt says, he *believes* they could not occasion a fever; and Mr. Farmer can *scarce* think it, but admits they *might*.

It is incumbent on me, before I have done, to make a few remarks on Mr. Juryman's *impartial* inference (as he is pleased to call it) in his pamphlet, drawn from the depositions made before the coroner.

He admits that Miss Bell received two wounds, and that she imagined them to be the cause of her death, “ but then,
 “ says he, a physician, three surgeons,
 “ and an *apothecary*, declare she did not
 “ die of the wounds. She must there-
 “ fore, he continues, be *mistaken* about
 “ the cause of her death; and I can see
 “ no difficulty in accounting for *that* mis-
 “ take; for it is very *probable* she had no
 “ thoughts of death till within a few days
 “ of the period, and *then* her ignorance
 “ might induce her to think that as she
 “ had

" had been wounded with a knife," [Mr. Juryman admits here it was done with a knife, though by and by he will be found to suppose it to have been done with a sword] " nothing else could be the occasion of that violent illness. I said she might think so; but is it not full as *probable*, that she did not think at all " when she made these declarations?"

It is plain, by this time, to every peruser of what I have written, that Mr. Juryman's *probable* conjectures are all mistaken ones. It is certain she *had* thoughts of death *long before* the fatal period. She told the maid (as mentioned before) the *very day* she came from the bagnio, that she had received her *death's wound*. And also said to Miss Young, when she was at Mrs. Parker's, that she should *die*, and even in *half an hour*, if not removed from thence. But what does Mr. Juryman mean, by her not thinking at all, when she made her declarations? Does he think she was drunk upon a sick bed? surely no. Or mad?

mad? Is there any appearance of her being delirious in her narration to Captain Holland? Did not that gentleman always find her clear in her story, without variation? And did she not talk to him of past occurrences? And if she had been not in her perfect senses, she must certainly have betrayed herself in *such* a conversation.

Mr. Juryman goes on “ the gentlemen
 “ of the faculty that attended her, say,
 “ she was delirious at times; and this is
 “ confirmed by her saying *No*, to Mr.
 “ Moody’s asking her if she knew him;
 “ though she had but that instant before
 “ been told, that Mr. Moody desired to
 “ see her; and she, of course, expected
 “ instantly to see him; by desiring him to
 “ be admitted.”— Let me ask Mr. jury-
 man, who are those gentlemen of the fa-
 culty that said she was delirious? I have
 carefully read over all the depositions, and
 find no such thing. Indeed an *Apotheca-*
ry, Mr. Bliss, says, the maid told him,
 that the deceased had declared, Sutton had
 cut

cut her; that on asking her about it, this was five days before her death] she sometimes said Sutton had cut her, and sometimes faltered. It is amazing she should *falter* to Mr. Bliss in charging Mr. Sutton, when she had been so *constant* to every other person, in *persisting* it was he that did it ! I cannot pretend to say, it is an untruth; or if it were, can I say it was *spoke knowingly*; but perhaps he did not rightly *recollect* the circumstance, any more than *that* of *eating* nuts, and *drinking* at the Bagnio.---As to her saying No, to Mr. Moody, neither he, nor Mr. Davis heard her, though both were in the room. Mr. Gyffard might mistake the word; I know he thinks she said it; and so she *might*, because being in great pain, and near her death, she perhaps did not properly attend to the question, till repeated.---Even supposing she *was* delirious on *that* day, it does not tend to invalidate one tittle of what she told captain Holland, for the last time he saw her alive, was the day before Messrs. Moody, Gyffard, and Davis, were with her, and *then* she was in her *perfect senses*.

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Mr.

Mr. juryman says, he is inclined to believe, the wounds were given by a *small-sword* rather than a *knife* “ and *that* “ through wantonness, not naked as imagined, but *through all her cloaths.*” Now Mr. Juryman, I am more inclined to think it was given with a knife ; because Miss Young is ready to swear, that Sutton had no sword at the Bagnio, nor did *she* ever see him wear one. As to whether she was naked when wounded, I cannot tell, but as to her being wounded through all her cloaths, I fancy you are again mistaken. Mr. Juryman, for her maid (who though she lived with Miss Bell, never was servant to one of her mistress’s profession before, and who *now* lives in a family of great credit and reputation) will testify an oath that she afterwards searched all the cloaths she had on at the Bagnio, and there was not the least sign of a hole through any of them. The last notice I shall take of this contemptible *impartial* inference of Mr. Juryman’s, is, where he says, “ it is not “ likely the wounds were designed to kill,
“ the

“ the part wounded being the least adapted to that purpose.”—I fancy the King of Prussia could inform this *sensible* and *impartial* Juryman, that many an Austrian had received his death’s wound *behind* as well as *before*.

Some little while after she died, it was publicly said in an advertisement in the Public Ledger, from Mr. Umfreville the Coroner, that she died of a fever, *occasioned by a bad habit of drinking*, and that it appeared so by the evidence of a physician, three surgeons, and an apothecary. Now, I have read with some care *all* their depositions, as published in the Juryman’s account, and do *not* find the *least* mention of her fever being *occasioned by a bad habit of drinking*. How this is to be accounted for, I cannot tell !

The maid says she went from home to the Bagnio in perfect health ; it therefore, upon the whole, appears to me, that her excessive rioting and drinking at the Bagnio, and at the Cardigan’s Head, *when*

Mr. Blifs was of the party, threw her into her fever, and that the wounds she received from Mr. Sutton during the intemperate heat of her body, by such a debauch, highly increased her illness, and that her drinking and her wounds were jointly the cause of her death ; for is it not reasonable to suppose, that wounds given when the body was inflamed with liquor, would aggravate an illness, notwithstanding the same wounds in a body cool and temperate might have no such ill effect ?

I shall conclude with hoping, that justice, in all cases of cruelty, will, some time or other, overtake the offenders, however screened by wealth and opulence.

HEARTFREE.

London, December 17, 1760.

LAST night, since the printing off of the foregoing sheets, captain Holland, had the pleasure of receiving a letter (dated the 10th) from an attorney at Aylsham, informing him that “ Mr. Bell is now de-
“ ter-

“ terminated to prosecute the perpetrator of
 “ the savage and brutish treatment his
 “ daughter received, to the utmost of his
 “ power,” and that this gentleman (the
 attorney) “ will be in town soon after the
 “ holidays, then to take all proper steps to
 “ carry Mr. Bell’s intentions into execu-
 “ tion.”

I was glad to snatch the opportunity,
 just before this last sheet went to the press,
 to give the public this early intimation ; in
 order to exculpate Mr. Bell from any cen-
 sure that might possibly fall upon him, in
 consequence of its having been so long de-
 layed, and of the observations made thereon.
 And I can assure Mr. Bell, he will not
 only have the praise, and best wishes of all,
 but the assistance (if needful) of many,
 friends to justice and humanity.

F I N I S.

